

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Amended)

A method of surface treatment of an existing glassfibre product, the method comprising:

positioning a layer of gas permeable material in contact with a partial region of a surface of the product;

positioning a layer of impermeable material in a manner such that a space exists between at least a portion of the layer of impermeable material and the partial region of the surface, the layer of gas permeable material being positioned in the space;

applying heat within the space; and

removing gaseous reaction products from fibre/resin layers of the product by creating a partial vacuum within the space in a manner such that the partial vacuum is in communication with all of said partial region of the surface of the product that is in contact with the layer of gas permeable material, the partial vacuum having a pressure of between 2 and 5 mb Abs.

Claim 2 (Previously Amended)

A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the layer of impermeable material has a periphery and the step of positioning the layer of impermeable material further comprises securing the periphery of the layer of impermeable material to the surface of the product via adhesive tape.

Claim 3 (Previously Amended)

A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the layer of impermeable material has a peripheral edge that is configured and adapted to form an air tight seal with the surface of the product when biased against the surface by the partial vacuum and the step of removing gaseous reaction products from the product further comprises securing the peripheral edge of the layer of impermeable material to the surface via the partial vacuum.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Previously Amended)

A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the creation of the partial vacuum in the step of removing gaseous reaction products from the product commences before the step of applying heat within the space.

Claim 6 (Previously Amended)

A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of removing gaseous reaction products from the product further comprises reducing pressure within the space in a manner such that the partial vacuum is maintained between the levels of 2 mb Abs and 5 mb Abs for a period of at least an hour.

Claim 7 (Previously Amended)

A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the product is a composite moulding of

glassfibre and polyester resin and the step of applying heat within the space further comprises applying sufficient heat to cause the surface of the composite moulding to maintain a temperature between 80°C and 90°C for at least an hour, the method of treating the composite molding further comprising the step of preventing the surface of the composite moulding from reaching a temperature in excess of 90°C throughout the method.

Claims 8-18 (Cancelled)

Claim19 (Previously Amended)

A method of treating a glassfibre reinforced boat hull, the boat hull having an exterior surface, the method comprising:

removing gelcoat from the exterior surface of the boat hull, the removing of the gelcoat exposing a new surface of the boat hull;

positioning a layer of gas permeable material in contact with a portion of the new surface of the hull from which the gelcoat has been removed;

positioning a layer of impermeable material adjacent the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in a space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the new surface of the hull;

securing the layer of impermeable material to the hull circumferentially around the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that gas and vapor can be evacuated from the space;

applying heat to within the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material;

removing gas and vapor from the hull through the new surface of the hull by creating a partial vacuum by reducing pressure within the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material;

removing the layers of gas permeable and impermeable material from the hull; and

applying a layer of gelcoat to the new surface of the hull from which the gelcoat has been removed.

Claim 20 (Previously Amended)

A kit for treating a glass fibre reinforced boat hull having a surface, the kit comprising:

a layer of gas permeable material configured and adapted to be positioned in contact with a portion of the surface of the hull, the layer of gas permeable material having a periphery;

a layer of impermeable material configured and adapted to be positioned adjacent the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that the layer of gas permeable material can be positioned in a space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull, the layer of gas permeable material being configured and adapted such that the layer of impermeable material can not contact the portion of the surface of the hull when the layer of impermeable material is positioned over the layer of gas permeable material and the layer of gas permeable

material is in contact with the portion of the surface of the hull;

means for securing the layer of impermeable material to the surface of the hull around the periphery of the layer of gas permeable material to thereby enclose and seal the space between the layer of impermeable material and the surface of the hull when the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in the space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull;

means for applying heating within the space; and

means for reducing pressure within the space to a level between 2 and 5 mb Abs in a manner such that gaseous reaction products in fibre/resin layers of the hull can be extracted in a vapor state from the hull through the portion of the surface of the hull and through the layer of gas permeable material when the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in the space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull and the layer of impermeable material is secured to the surface of the hull around the periphery of the layer of gas permeable material.

Claim 21 (Previously Added)

The kit as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the layer of gas permeable material and the layer of impermeable material are each sufficiently flexible so as to allow the portion of the surface of the hull to be one of a plurality of differently contoured portions of surfaces that are each compatible for use with the kit.

Claims 22-24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended)

A method of treating osmosis damage on a glassfibre reinforced polyester boat hull, the boat hull having a curved exterior surface, the method comprising:

removing gelcoat from a partial region of the exterior surface of the boat hull where osmosis damage has occurred;

positioning a layer of gas permeable material in contact with the partial region of the exterior surface of the boat hull from which the gel coat has been removed;

positioning a layer of impermeable material adjacent the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in a space between the layer of impermeable material and the partial region of the exterior surface of the boat hull from which the gel coat has been removed;

securing the layer of impermeable material to the exterior surface of the hull circumferentially around the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that gas and vapor can be evacuated from the space;

applying heat within the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material;

removing gas and vapor from the hull by creating a partial vacuum by reducing pressure within the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material such that the partial vacuum is in communication with all of said partial region of the exterior surface of the boat hull from which the gel coat has been removed; and

removing the layers of gas permeable and impermeable material from the boat hull; and

applying a layer of gelcoat to the partial region of the exterior surface of the boat hull from which the gel coat has been removed.